

Appln. No.: 09/818,800
Amdt. Dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated August 25, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-14 and 20-31 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Dimitri Kanevsky, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,777).

Kanevsky, et al. discloses the following in col. 4, lines 32-36:

"At post office 14 an automatic process means 42 identifies whether the paper mail should be sent via surface mail routine or a e-mail via routine. Instructions on how to send a letter are left on the cover or envelope of the paper mail by the sender."

Kanevsky, et al. discloses the following in col. 1, lines 33-48:

"Another object of the present invention is to provide a communication system wherein a user sends an internet message to a post office including the post mail address for delivery of the message. The post office forwards the internet message via e-mail to the internet equipped post office that is the closest to the addressee. This post office that is closed [sic] to the addressee downloads the internet message, prints a hard copy on a paper, encloses it in an envelope and delivers the hard copy to the address via usual local mail.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a communication system wherein a user sends paper mail to an internet equipped post office. The post office electronically scans the paper mail and forwards the scanned information data either to the address directly via the internet or via an internet equipped post office that is local to the addressee."

Kanevsky discloses a system in which a sender uses the internet to help in the delivery of physical mail.

Kanevsky does not disclose or anticipate the method claimed by Applicant in claims 1-14 and 20-31, Kanevsky does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of independent claim1, namely, notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail; notifying

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the carrier electronically by the recipient of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; and delivering mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier. The recipient determines the manner in which mail is delivered in Applicant's claimed invention, whereas in Kanevsky, the sender determines the manner in which mail is delivered.

Some of the advantages of Applicant's claimed invention over the invention disclosed by Kanevsky et. al. are as follows. Sometimes, recipients of letters and packages like to know what letters and packages they are going to receive before they receive them. For instance, if someone is going on a trip, they may want to receive their bills, i.e., credit cards, electric, gas, oil, hospital, doctor, etc.. before they leave on the trip so that they may pay the bills before a finance charge for late payment of the bill is applied to their account. Someone may also want to receive a package before they go on a trip so that they may take the contents of the package on the trip. The recipient may also want to delay delivery of a particular letter or package until they return from their trip. The reason for the foregoing may be that the recipient does not want to retrieve the letter or package at the post office or have the letter or package waiting at a vacant house.

Claims 15-19 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitri Kanevsky and further in view of Andrew Egendorf (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,221).

Claim 15 is dependent on claim 1. Claim 15 adds the following to claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

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The Examiner stated the following on page 5 of the August 25, 2005, Final Rejection:

"As for claim 15: Kanevsky discloses a method, but lacks wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender. Engendorf discloses a method wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender (fig. 1, displays the billing method), internet is used to collect payment. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Kanevsky method in conjunction with Engendorf system to emulate a invention that deals with delivery of mail through the internet with billing procedures by way of internet, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin."

Engendorf discloses the following in line 39 of col. 4 to line 17 of col. 5.

"Referring to FIG. 1 a system for carrying out the method of the present invention is shown. In that system the Internet is shown schematically as network 1 to which providers 2.9, vendors 5.1-5.n, 36.1-6.n, and 8.1-8.n and customers 4.1-4.n and 10.1-10.n (where n is an integer to indicate a range from one to many) are connected in different ways.

Provider 2 is connected to access network 3 and the internet 1 and provides access to the Internet 1 for customers 4.1-4n and vendors 6.1-6n connected to access network 3. Access network 3 can be a telephone network, a cable television network an online services network such as Compuserve, American On-Line, or Prodigy, or a private Internet Access Network. Similarly, provider 9 is connected to access network 7 and the Internet 1 and provide access to the Internet 1 for customers 10.1-10n and vendors 8.1-8n, Vendors 5.1-5n access the Internet directly by their own equipment.

In accordance with the method shown in the flow chart of FIG. 2, for example, in step 11 provider 2 establishes agreements with vendors 5.1-5n who are connected directly to the Internet, with vendors 6.1-6n who access the Internet via access network 3 and provider 2, and with vendors 8.1-8n who are connected to the Internet 1 via access network 7 and provider 9, to bill customers 4.1-4n for goods and services purchased by them over the Internet from vendors 5.1-5n and 8.1-8n. Provider 2 also agrees to remit a portion of the collected money back to the vendors. Provider 2 also establishes an agreement with each of customers 4.1-4n. These agreements provide that the provider will bill the customer for

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goods and services purchased by them over the Internet. The billing will be done to billing accounts established in connection with the agreements. The billing accounts can be, for example, credit card accounts, telephone accounts, or bank accounts. The accounts need not be with the provider if the provider has a billing agreement in place with the party with whom the account was established.

As part of the services of the provider to customers 4.1-4n, the customers connected to the Internet 1 in step 12 at a desired time, typically by making contact via modem. Once connected to the Internet, the customer can interface with any one of the vendors 5.1-5n, 6.1-6n and 8.1-8n in order to find out about products or services offered by those vendors."

Egendorf discloses on internet billing method. Neither Kanevsky or Egendorf disclose or anticipate a method that enables the recipient to notify the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

Regarding claims 16-19.

Egendorf discloses the following in column 2, lines 51-65:

"In accordance with the present invention, a customer desiring to purchase goods and services over the Internet has prearranged access to the Internet through the services of an Internet access provider. Such providers can be, for example, companies whose only business is to offer connection to the Internet, companies which offer on-line computer services, one of which is connection to the Internet, cable television companies, or telephone companies. IN arranging for access with such a provider, the customer has agreed with the provider on a method of payment which is, for example, by billing, or charge to a credit card, or charge to an account of the user which could be an account specific to the Internet or could be a more general account, such as an on-line computer services account, a cable television account, a telephone account, or a bank account.

Egendorf discloses an internet billing method. Neither Kanevsky nor Egendorf, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the invention claimed by Application in claims 16-19, namely, the above patents do not disclose or anticipate notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail

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by the unique number assigned to the mail; notifying the carrier electronically by the recipient of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; and delivering mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

In view of the above, claims 1-31 as amended are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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